



The City of New York

Queens Community Board 11

Serving the Communities of Auburndale, Bayside, Douglaston, Hollis Hills
Little Neck and Oakland Gardens

Christine L. Haider Chairperson / **Joseph Marzillano** District Manager

April 10, 2018

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair
Landmarks Preservation Commission
Municipal Building
One Centre Street
9th Floor North
New York, NY 10007

Re: LPC Proposed Rule Changes

Dear Chair Srinivasan:

Queens Community Board 11 unanimously approved the attached resolution regarding the Landmark Preservation Commission's 131-page proposed rule changes that will be open for public comment until May 8, 2018.

Our resolution deals with the lack of transparency proposed in the rule changes by eliminating public hearings and not providing opportunities for the public or Community Boards to comment upon, or provide evidence about, many applications dealing with exterior changes to landmarked properties. Many more applications will be approved at staff level without public or Community Board input.

Our Community Board has two landmarked districts consisting of detached single-family residential buildings. The districts have a strict protocol and review process for any changes to the exterior of these buildings and for the construction of new buildings which, in the past, we have exercised and advised LPC.

We insist on the continuation of the current transparency and public input in the proposed rule changes.

Sincerely,

Christine Haider
Chair



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Resolution: Opposition to the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Proposed Rule Changes To Limit Community Input In Favor of Administrative Staff Oversight

Whereas, the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) has proposed rule changes for the purpose of allowing more applications for changes to landmarked properties and properties in historic districts to be approved at staff level instead of going to public hearings and review by the public and community boards, and,

Whereas, under these proposals there would be a loss of transparency because there would be no public notification, and no opportunity for the public and community boards to comment upon or provide evidence about many of the applications dealing with exterior changes to landmarked property, and,

Whereas, the proposed rule changes contain 131 pages, and,

Whereas, sufficient time is necessary for interested parties, especially community boards, to fully review the proposal and issue a detailed opinion, and,

Whereas, the LPC announced this proposal in February with a public hearing on March 27th, when all comments were required to be submitted, and,

Whereas, at the March 27th hearing, the Chair of the LPC announced that the window for public comments regarding the proposed rule changes had been extended to May 8th after much public outcry, and,

Whereas, the LPC is making almost no provision to increase staff if the rule changes are enacted, even though existing staff would have more work and responsibility if these rule changes are adopted, and,

Whereas, the lack of input from the public and community boards, because of these rule changes, could result in a less informed and less desirable result to our communities when decisions are rendered regarding applications for exterior changes to landmarked buildings.

Therefore Be It Resolved That, Queens Community Board 11 calls on the Landmarks Preservation Commission to amend the proposed rule changes to ensure that the public, community boards, and preservation organizations can fully review and participate in LPC cases involving proposed exterior changes to landmarked buildings that are either individual or part of a historic district.

Be It Further Resolved That, the LPC should give specific reasons why their proposed rule changes involving the elimination of public participation would benefit the application process.

Be It Further Resolved That, if the LPC does not amend the changes that would eliminate the role of public participation in the LPC decision process, then Queens Community Board 11 would have no choice but to oppose adoption of these rule changes.

Be It Further Resolved That, Queens Community Board 11 believes that our system of government works best when people and community boards and other groups are involved in the decision making process regarding community changes, including LPC applications, that impact on local neighborhoods.

Be It Further Resolved That, this resolution will be sent to the Mayor, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, local elected leaders and all NYC community boards.

Community Board 11, Queens voted on this item April 9, 2018 with a vote of 36 in favor and 0 opposed.

Resolution adopted April 9, 2018.